The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

August 2013 Volume 9, Issue 8

From the Editor

Greetings friends and comrades,

Summer is quickly fading into Autumn, and major events on the W7DK calendar are fast approaching. The two biggest upcoming things are the club's booth at the State Fair, and the annual Salmon Run QSO party and Club Fundraiser.

These events are successful because of your participation and the fine leadership of a few overworked club members. Be sure to consider signing up for a shift at the fairgrounds, and check with any club officer or board member to see how you can get involved in the Salmon Run, either working a transmitter or making a pledge. You'll soon be getting a pledge form in your mailbox. The club depends on your help.

We're pleased to feature a guest column this month from Dan KB6NU with a few thoughts and tips about maintenance.

And another feature this month will be the first installment of "The Boatanchor Chronicles", and as you read it you can travel with me thru my new project (with lots of help and guidance from many club members) of restoring a 70-year old US Navy 5-band entertainment receiver. I hope you enjoy it. I'll try to slip in a page or two each month about the project and my successes and frustrations.

On a personal note, thanks to all for the well-wishes after I unexpectedly lost the sight in my left eye earlier this month. I'm adapting pretty well and am amazed at how good a job the human body does at compensating for adversity.

Nuff fer now, I need to get this to my erstwhile proofreader Bob KE7WPK so that Joe K7ZG can post it on the website w7dk.org in a timely manner. And check next month to see how "The Logger's Bark" got its name.
73 de Mike W7MWF

In This Month's Issue

Board of Directors Meeting
3 July 2013 Minutes

The 3 July 2013 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Secretary (Presiding)	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO

There were 8 names on the attendance roster

Minutes:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the June 2013 Board meeting as coordinated.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: Don Severeid K7LMN # 627 became a Silent Key on 22 June. A Memorial Service is planned.

Sunshine: Greta, KF7KSW has stepped up to take over the Sunshine task which has been so ably handled by Jill K7JIL for many years. She's earned retirement.

Please let Greta, and the Secretary know of any health, welfare, or Silent Key events.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
Memberships
QSL cards
QEX Journal
ARRL Scholarship Acknowledgment
Property Value for 2013 Rc'd.
W4KW Bert Noll Letter 26 Jun 2013

TREASURER'S REPORT: No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Larry KD4VOM

Current membership stands at 290

RCT Information Technology Committee: – Randy Myers WB4SBP

As approved, the classroom computer has been relocated to the admin area upstairs along with the printer.

Spare XP computer for possible use with the HF Station

Property Management: .

The Members Only Linear Amplifier (Heathkit SB 220 Linear) auction failed to receive an acceptable bid.

A computer table (still in the box) has been donated to the Club

Plans to propose/sale/offer RCT antique gear to Puget Sound Antique Radio Association in the near future are in the works.

Mike Finnie W7MWF added to the Property Management Team

Planning Committee Report: Larry KD4VOM

Progress Summary: No progress

HF and Repeater Operations:

Repeater Operations: Nick K7MO

Little to report, Crawford Mountain repeater remains down.

IRLP Configuration: There was a discussion of the use of the IRLP and whether it should be re-hosted to the 440 repeater. The membership to be asked for input/feedback

440 Repeater Report: There was a report of ragged reception of the 440 repeater from Puyallup.

HF Operations: The Henry RF Amplifier has been returned to service and seems to be functioning normally. Thanks to all who helped return this gear to a working condition, Pete KK7QW, Harry W7DOE, Bruce WE7P, Others?

Facilities Management:

Bruce announced that the toilet has been fixed…

Generator: Bruce Hanson WE7P proposed the Club purchase a Champion 7000 watt battery start generator to replace the two World War II generators sold last year.

After considerable discussion,

A motion was made, seconded and passed to purchase the generator.

Training:

Next Technician Class is scheduled for October 5/6.

General Class in the works: Stephen AD7AB is asking for Extra Class instructors to take sections of the course, which will be taught using the "W7BUN" Seligman method, in which students prepare the lessons and are supported by the Instructor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Emergency Operations: General discussion of what computer to use for software, logging, etc.

Field Day:

Operating Report: Went reasonably well, learned a lot about our generator power capabilities and circuitry. There were RF conflicts but were manageable through work-arounds.

A special thanks to all who made Field Day a success, from setting up the stations, feed lines and antennas, configuring our generator power and transfer box set-up, to those who volunteered generators and fuel, to arranging the software and stations, and of course those who provided all the food and refreshments.

NEW BUSINESS: None Reported

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

RCT 100th Anniversary planning –

A letter from Bertram B. Noll W4KW describing his family history with the Radio Club of Tacoma, and in particular his father Bertram F Noll and grandfather Bertram John Noll who were members # 11 and # 12, and worked with Howard Richert 7HR (One of the Club's founding members) at the shipyards.

He was particularly interested in any plans for our 100th Anniversary coming up in October 2016.

The general discussion indicates there is interest in beginning the planning for our 100th Anniversary. The possibility of a special event station or perhaps a contest involving clubs which have been around for over 90 years It was recommended we contact the ARRL to see if they have information on such Clubs, and whether such a contest or special event might be an appropriate way to help us celebrate our centennial anniversary.

26 June Special Meeting: The 26 June general membership meeting was hosted by Bob AD7LJ at the State Emergency Operations Center at Camp Murray. Bob did a great job of providing an orientation to the operations and capabilities of the State EOC and provided tours of the major centers including the amateur radio section.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

W7DK at the Fair:

Stephen AD7AB has the duty tour roster set up on the W7DK.org website and it is filling up faster than previous years. Please contact Stephen for more information.

Stephen is also asking for folks wishing to participate in the Club's Booth design and setup.

Meeting Adjourned.

24 July 2013 MINUTES

The 24 July 2013 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:29 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Al Ferguson N7OMS

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 28 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Gary WG7X

INTRODUCTIONS: Guests and Self introductions were completed; several with new calls were introduced. Laura, spouse new member Mitch KG7EBS and new member Tim Timelin K7HF who was a member back in the early 80's

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZspent a week in the hospital recovering from surgery, and is doing well now

Correspondence:

No Report

Treasurer: Field Day Pig surrogate was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training: The next Technician's class will be held on 5 & 6 October

Stephen is also ginning up a General Class and is seeking Extra Class licensees to help teach the program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IRLP – Repeater Configuration: Larry KD4VOM announced that at the last Board meeting there was a lengthy discussion about the utility of the IRLP and the possibility of re-hosting it to the Club's 440 MHz repeater. The Board is soliciting feedback and input relative to these proposed changes in the Club's IRLP/ Repeater configuration and operations. Please contact any Board member, or send email inputs through the Club website at W7DK.org

Mixed thoughts by the group, maybe link the 440 and 2 meter repeaters together.

Chehalis Hamfest: Saturday July 27th

W7DK@the Fair: Stephen Morton AD7AB is soliciting sign up for this year's "W7DK at the Fair". Signups are filling the schedule faster than previous years, so get your date picked and register for a tour. The Radio Club of Tacoma has a unique opportunity to present and promote the Radio Club of Tacoma and Amateur Radio to the thousands of visitors to the Fair. The four hour tour signup sheet is on the W7DK.org website. Serving a tour is rewarding, and also provides a free ticket to the Fair. Stephen is also looking for four or five folks who can help with the design and setup of the Fair Booth. Steve can be contacted through the W7DK.org website or by email at:

semorton@harbornet.com

ad7ab@w7dk.org

Open House Hosts: Volunteer hosts are needed for the Club's Saturday Open House, especially for the second Saturday of every month. Contact any Board member.

PROGRAM: No Program tonight

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

SHOW AND TELL: Terry Dummler, WQ7A talked about himself doing a presentation on several county hunting events/operating

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None reported

DOOR PRIZES: Ray Brassard KE7BZD won a digital caliper, and Bud Haake N7MV took home a solar light

RAFFLE PRIZE: Greta Hewlett KF7KSW took home half of the 50-50 Raffle

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm

The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations…

DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

If you have something to donate Contact Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Management Team Leader

Guest Column
Taking a Dose of My Own Medicine
By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Last week, I wrote a blog post on preventive maintenance for one of my writing clients.

Afterwards, I decided to take a dose of my own medicine and do a little preventive maintenance around the shack. I started with the Astron RS-35M, which provides the DC power that runs HF transceiver and my VHF/UHF transceiver in my shack. I had started noticing a few little things, such as the voltage adjustment being a little fussy, that I wanted to correct before the supply failed on me.

After removing the cover, I vacuumed all the dust out of the supply. The RS-35M wasn't very dirty, but even so, getting the dirt out of a piece of equipment is probably the first thing you'll want to do when performing preventive maintenance. Dirt impedes air flow. That can lead to higher operating temperatures, and as the lab manager that I interviewed for my blog post said, "Heat kills."

Not only should you vacuum any dust out of a cabinet, you should also clean the fan filters, if your gear has them. Dusty filters prevent air from flowing smoothly through equipment, and that means the fans don't cool as well as they should.

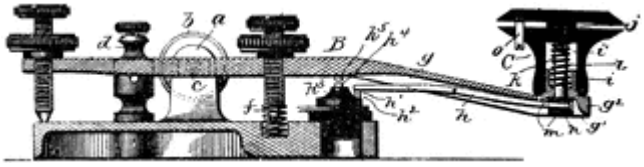
Once that was done, I did a visual inspection. One thing that you want to look for are components that look like they're getting too hot. Another thing to look for is evidence of arcing. Whatever is causing the overheating or arcing will eventually cause a unit to fail. Fortunately, I found neither.

Next, I checked to see that the components mounted to the enclosure were securely screwed down. In the RS-35M, the transformer, the bridge rectifier, and an electrolytic are mounted to the enclosure. Oddly enough, the bridge rectifier was quite loose, so I tightened it down. Also loose were the output terminals. I tightened these down as well.

Finally, I squirted a little cleaner and lube into the voltage adjustment pot and worked it back and forth. That seemed to do the job. That pot now works smoothly and cleanly.

I put the cover back on, reconnected the power cable, and got back to making QSOs. It should be good for another couple of years.

==========



==========

When he's not keeping the gear in his shack in tip-top shape, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Looking Forward to September Activities

Stolen in part from the September 2012 Bark Originally submitted by Al N7OMS

It seems as if we have several things going every month. Let's take September for example. The Puyallup Fair kicks off on the 6th and we will again have a booth in the hobby hall thanks to Steve Morton AD7AB and his crew. Check with Steve as there may be spots left to fill in the schedule.

Also coming up in September is the Washington State QSO party beginning on September 14. This event is hosted by the Western Washington DX club and is about making contacts with each of the 39 counties in Washington State.

What we have done at the Radio Club is to use this as an opportunity to have a fund raiser. The Radio Club of Tacoma Salmon Run Fund Raiser herein referred to as RCTSRFR . Either way a mouth full!

How it works is you the member will receive a letter that will ask you to pledge an amount based on the number of counties the crack W7DK contest team will contact during the Washington State QSO party. The team has chased the elusive clean sweep for the last five years and has only come close. But let's say this year is the year. If you pledged one dollar for each county your total donation would be thirty nine dollars. We have had some pledges that got creative. Like twenty five cents for each CW contact or an extra 10 dollars for Island county. This is your chance to try out your math skills but be sure you double check cause some-one once forget to carry the one and it cost them much more than they thought.

Editor's Note:

This year, the club will undertake to solicit pledges for the Salmon Run Fund Raiser by including a pledge form along with an info packet and membership application sent to many licensed amateurs in the local area who are not currently members of the Radio Club of Tacoma. It is the Board's hope that this will not only increase the coffers, but will result in the recruitment of new members.

The Boatanchor Chronicles
Musings of a Retrotechnologist
Part 1
By Mike W7MWF

Several months ago I casually mentioned to several of the museum crew that I was interested in replicating a novice station as would be found in a 1950's-1960's ham shack. The technological developments of post-WW2 era have always fascinated me, and amateur radio operators were a big part of the quantum leap in electronics design.

So a month or two passed, then Rich KR7W asked me if I was still interested.

"Sure", I innocently replied.

"Well then," said Rich, "Bob K7MXE has an old US Navy boatanchor receiver that you might be interested in. If you want, I'll haul it in from Eatonville next week."

"You Betcha!", I responded. "That would be perfect since my dad was a radioman in the Navy during WW2 and Korea.

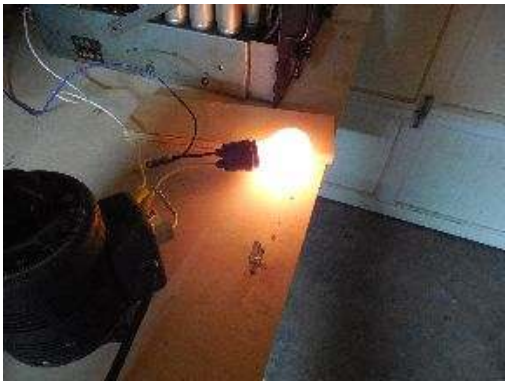
A few days later, I met Rich at the clubhouse and took custody of a EH Scott Model SLR-F 5-band Superhetrodyne device that tips the scales at a mere 107 pounds. Designed and produced by Scott for the Navy as the model RCH (CZC-46209) for ship and shore use primarly as a "Morale Radio", its primary fame to claim was the lack of regenerative transmissions produced by the receiver. It was believed that all other receivers tended to transmit enough of a regenerative signal to jeopardize secrecy and give away the location of ships and stations to enemy submarines and listening posts.

After lugging the behemoth home and reinforcing my workbench, I cracked the rig open, expecting to find 70 years of dust, rust, and all sorts of decomposed bugs and vermin. But lo and behold, although not spotless, it was fairly clean and undamaged.

Keep in mind that I've never tackled a project such as this before, so I was a bit overwhelmed when I saw the miles of wire, pounds of solder, and abundance of valves and other electronic components inside.

Review of the specs on the radio gleaned from the Internet revealed that it contained a total of 11 tubes.

It seemed sort of logical to me to pull the tubes and test them, so out they cam, to the clubhouse they went, and I spent an hour one Saturday plugging them into the old TV7 tester up in the W7OS Museum. Yippee, they all appeared to be satisfactory.



Being highly paranoid about zapping myself with 600 loose volts, at Rich's suggestion I performed a "dim bulb test" to check the integrity of the power circuit. When the bulb lit up like the beacon on a lighthouse, I knew there was a serious short somewhere in the radio.

Luckily, I located a schematic of the radio and, as hard to read as it is and as big a neophyte as I am, I started tracing the circuit from the input to the power switch through the fuses. My first discovery was that the wiring didn't match what the designers dictated.

So after replacing a missing fuse holder, installing new fuses of the proper amperage, clipping the wires that were hooked up wrong, and using some jumper cables to the correct connections, I again tested it . Under the watchful eye of Randy WB4SPB, we performed a few tests across the transformers to see what the voltages were in comparison to what they were supposed to be. Overall, not ghastly differences, but enough to indicate that some of the "bathtub capacitors" (like the two little silver boxes shown to the right) might be failing.

Consultation with 'the brain trust' compelled me to consider replacing all of the capacitors with modern components.

"What the heck is a bathtub capacitor", I asked myself. "Oh, those metal boxes shaped like a bathtub, they contain multiple old-style capacitors and are seal up tighter than a drum."

I had two options, as I saw it. Either totally bypass the bathtubs and put new components in, or to tear apart the bathtubs and replace the components inside them.

Since I wanted to retain the vintage look as much as possible, I decided to go the route of rebuilding the old bathtubs. There are only 15 of them!

So as not to confuse myself any more than I already was, I tried to label and photograph each capacitor before I removed it. My hope was that I would put it back together correctly. Also, I decided that I would completely do one cap at a time - uninstall, rebuild, and reinstall before moving on to the next one.

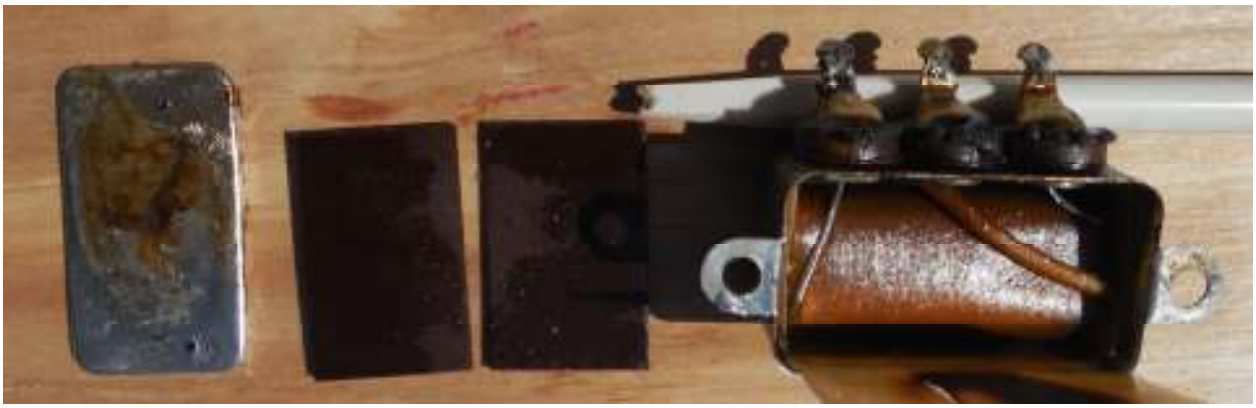
Fortunately, each of the bathtub caps were marked with the value and number of the components inside them. Since I had found a good manual (except for the barely readable schematic), I compared the parts list for the various capacitors with what I could read inside the receiver to come up with an order for modern parts from www.tubesandmore.com. Plus a few extras.

When the parts arrived a few days later, it was time to get down and dirty, pull out a bathtub, figure out how to crack it open, and then try to cram the new, modern parts into that little tiny box. Then put it back together and reinstall and rewire it in the radio.

Soon I was to discover that there was a mixture of paper/foil capacitors and electrolytic capacitors. The first one I pulled was number 115. Knowing I had to melt the solder holding the back on, I fired up my torch and went out on my driveway and started heating up the seam.

"Looking good", I thought, as I started to see the solder start to flow a bit. Then all of a sudden Holy Cow, a volcano in my hand spurting hot oil under high pressure. Fortunately, it was pointed away from me and I try hard to always remember to wear eye protection when doing that kind of stuff. Also, since some of those old capacitors are suspected of containing potentially toxic materials, I had made certain to perform this task outside.

Well, the back of the capacitor finally fell off, and I studied it to figure out how best to rebuild it. As you can see below, I later decided to drill 2 pressure-relief holes in the back of each cap before subjecting it to the torch. As I was later to discover, each of the paper/foil caps were constructed like this.



I cleaned the guts out of the old component, then soldered in two new .05 µF capacitors. As a precaution to prevent future shorts and to eliminate the chance for things to shift around, I secured them in place with a couple shots of hot glue.

The next step was to tack-solder the back in place and then to reinstall it in the radio. Thank goodness I had taken pictures of the connections before removing the gizmo.

"Ah ha!," I thought. This is going to be a piece of cake. Read on…..

Thinking that I was on to a really cool methodology, I drilled the next capacitor for pressure relief, then proceeded to heat it up, fully expecting oil to start running out. WRONG. It started oozing something that I would say was the consistency of warm creamy peanut butter. I had just tackled the deconstruction (or destruction) of an electrolytic capacitor.

What a mess. Oh well, a popsicle stick and some q-tips worked pretty well. The installation of the new 25 µF cap was fairly straight forward, with careful attention paid to getting the polarity correct. Thankfully, there were only 3 of these gooey caps, the others were all oil filled. I became proficient enough to be able to rebuild one in about 30 minutes. Of course, removal and reinstallation often each took 2 hours.

So goes the saga of my Boatanchor restoration. Stay tuned and check next month's issue of The Bark to see further details of my ongoing adventure.

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

The Bark is again pleased to feature several QSL cards from the extensive collection of Harry N7DOE. Thanks Harry for so graciously sharing some of your cards with us.

This month's cards are from stations far across the Pacific Ocean in Japan.

All club members are invited and encouraged to contribute cards, photos, stories, opinions, observations, or other tidbits for publication in The Bark. Either email them to me as a jpg file, or bring them by the clubhouse on a Saturday and I'll scan them.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark

The Logger's Bark **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x @ w7dk.org
Vice Pres: Casey Hicks WY7V email to wy7v @ w7dk.org
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom @ w7dk.org
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj @ w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Ferguson, N7OMS email to n7oms @ w7dk.org
James Mendenhall KE6WHN email to ke6whn @ w7dk.org
Glen Galati KA7BOJ email to ka7boj @ w7dk.org
Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo @ w7dk.org
Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p @ w7dk.org

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor "Stop the Presses!!" Mike Finnie, W7MWF email to w7dk-news @ earthlink.net
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma…
Send articles to: w7dk-news @ earthlink.net or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed… then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

Want / For Sale ads are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark if Credit line is included in the article.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

Upcoming RCT Events

CLUB MEETINGS: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .